

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

45 SOUTH FRUIT STREET CONCORD, NH 03301-4857



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New Hampshire's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2016 was 2.6 percent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the February rate which remained at 2.7 percent after revision. The March 2015 seasonally adjusted rate was 3.7 percent.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for March 2016 placed the number of employed residents at 724,890, an increase of 2,990 from the previous month and an increase of 10,560 from March 2015. The number of unemployed residents decreased by 910 over-the-month to 19,300. This was 7,880 fewer unemployed than in March 2015. From February 2016 to March 2016, the total labor force increased by 2,080 to 744,190. This was an increase of 2,680 from March 2015.

The unadjusted March 2016 unemployment rate for New Hampshire was 3.0 percent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the February rate which remained at 3.1 percent after revision. The March 2015 unadjusted rate was 4.0 percent.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2016 was 5.0 percent, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the February rate, and a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from the March 2015 rate. The national unadjusted rate for March 2016 was 5.1 percent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the February rate, and a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from the March 2015 rate.

NOTE: State nonfarm employment estimates are available on our Internet Web site: www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi concurrent with this release. Local area unemployment rates are expected to be available on Thursday, April 21. All monthly data will continue to be published in the monthly newsletter *New Hampshire Economic Conditions*.

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For further information, contact: Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau (603) 228-4124

<u>NEWS RELEASE</u>